

# 2011 Rhode Island Freshwater Fishing Abstract



Department of  
Environmental Management  
Division of Fish & Wildlife  
[www.dem.ri.gov](http://www.dem.ri.gov)



This pamphlet contains a partial compilation of state laws and regulations pertaining to freshwater fishing plus other related information. For more detailed information, refer to Title 20 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island or contact the Division of Fish & Wildlife or the Division of Enforcement.

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## **Telephone Numbers**

DEM Directors Office .....	(401) 222-2771
Division of Fish & Wildlife Main Office, Chief.....	647-3367
Great Swamp Field Headquarters .....	789-0281
Ft. Wetherill Marine Lab.....	423-1920
Division of Enforcement .....	222-3070
Complaints of Violation ( 24-hr.).....	222-3070
License Information .....	222-3576
Boat Registration .....	222-6647

On Front Cover: Wheelchair accessible dock located at Carbuncle Pond, Coventry

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**Arcadia Warmwater Hatchery**

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## **Methods of Fishing**

1. Unless otherwise specified, only a rod and reel or other hand-held and hand-operated device shall be used to catch fish in the fresh waters of the state. At no time shall a person place, operate, or superintend more than two (2) of these devices for the purpose of catching fish, except as noted below, and no more than three (3) hooks may be attached to each device.
2. Suckers, fallfish, and carp may be taken by snares, spears, or bow and arrow.
3. For the purpose of fishing through the ice, up to five (5) lines with a single hook on each, personally attended, and held by any device designed for that purpose (tip-up), may be used. *See the exception for Beach Pond, #3, page 6.*
4. Freshwater minnows may be taken for bait with minnow traps, dip nets, and seines not greater than four feet (4 ft.) deep by eight feet (8 ft.) long and having a square mesh size not larger than one-fourth inch (1/4 in.) unless otherwise licensed by the DEM. This regulation is notwithstanding adherence to current River Herring regulations, page 16.

## **Trout Conservation Stamp**

1. A Trout Conservation Stamp is required of any person wishing to keep or possess a trout, salmon, or charr caught in Rhode Island waters or to fish in a "catch & release" or in a "fly fishing only" area.
2. It is obtained from any city or town clerk's office or from authorized agents such as bait and tackle shops and some retail department stores.
3. It must be worn so that it is visible and must be shown upon request.
4. It expires on the last day of February annually.
5. It is not required of the following:
  - a. minors younger than fifteen (15) years of age.
  - b. any resident over 65 years of age.
  - c. any person with a 100% disability.
  - d. landowners or members of their families when fishing from property on which they are actually domiciled.
  - e. any person possessing trout taken from a lake or pond which shares a border with a neighboring state.
  - f. any person possessing privately-owned trout caught in privately-owned ponds.

### **Fishing License Information**

1. A fishing license is required of any person 15 years of age or older wishing to catch or take fish in any freshwater stream or pond in the state (except as noted below).
2. A fishing license can be obtained at any city or town clerk's office or from authorized agents such as bait and tackle shops and some retail department stores.
3. RI fishing licenses are reciprocal only with Connecticut for Beach Pond, Killingly Pond, Hazard Pond, and Peck Pond, and with Massachusetts only for Wallum Lake and Harris Pond.
4. The fishing license must be worn so that it is visible and must be shown upon request.
5. The fishing license expires on the last day of February annually.
6. The fishing license will be revoked for violation of fishing laws.
7. A fishing license is not required of minors younger than fifteen (15) years of age.
8. A fishing license is not required of any blind person.
9. A fishing license is not required of landowners or for members of their families when fishing from property on which they are domiciled.
10. A free, special, permanent license may be obtained by any veteran of the armed forces who currently has a 100% disability rating or by any individual who is 100% permanently disabled.
11. A free, special, permanent license may be obtained by any resident over 65 years of age.

### **Fishing License Fees**

<b>Resident (or current member of the armed forces).....</b>	<b>\$18.00</b>
<b>Combination (Hunting &amp; Fishing) .....</b>	<b>\$33.00</b>
<b>Non-resident .....</b>	<b>\$35.00</b>
<b>Non-resident tourist (three (3) consecutive days) .....</b>	<b>\$16.00</b>
<b>Trout Conservation Stamp .....</b>	<b>\$ 5.50</b>

### **Free Fishing Days**

Neither a Freshwater Fishing License nor a Trout Conservation Stamp will be required by residents or non-residents on the 7th and 8th of May 2011.

### **Seasons, Creel Limits, and Minimum Size Limits**

<b>Fish</b>	<b>*Exceptions</b>	<b>Season</b>	<b>Creel Limit**</b>	<b>Minimum Size</b>
Trout	2-5, 7-10	Apr 9 - Nov 30	5	None
Trout	3-5, 7, 8 1	Dec 1 - Feb 28	2	None
Atlantic Salmon	<b>CLOSED</b> see page 14			
Domestic (land-locked) Atlantic Salmon	1-3, 5, 7-10	Apr 9 - Feb 28	2	15"
Northern Pike	1	No Closed Season	2	24"
Chain Pickerel	1, 3, 5, 11	No Closed Season	5	14"
Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass	1, 3, 5, 6, 11	No Closed Season	5	12"
American Eel	1	No Closed Season	None	6"
River Herring (Alewives, Blue-back herring), Shad & Smelt	<b>CLOSED</b> see page 14			
All Other Fresh-water Fish	3, 5, 11	No Closed Season	None	None
Striped Bass	12	No Closed Season	2	28"

\*\* Creel Limit: Number of fish per person per day

### **\*EXCEPTIONS AS LISTED ABOVE**

1. All lengths are measured from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail.
2. Fishing season begins at 6 AM, on 9 April 2011 and closes at midnight 29 February 2012.
3. Beach Pond - fishing season opens at 6 AM on 16 April 2011 and closes at midnight 29 February 2012. Six (6) tip-ups may be used while ice-fishing. The daily creel limit for salmon, trout, and

charr is five (5) fish, (taken either singularly or in aggregate). All other RI size and catch limits apply.

4. That portion of the Falls River from the bridge at Austin Farm Rd. downstream approximately 2 miles to the bridge off Brook Trail is designated as a “no kill” or “catch and release” area. Fishing is permitted only with artificial lures equipped with a single barbless hook or a single barbed hook which has been crimped, and all fish caught must be returned to the water immediately. The possession of any trout while fishing in this section of the river shall be prima facie evidence that said trout were taken in violation of this regulation.
5. Wallum Lake - Rhode Island Regulations apply.
6. The daily limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass is five (5) fish (taken either singularly or in the aggregate).
7. Trout Conservation Stamp - A Trout Conservation Stamp is required if an angler wishes to (a) keep or possess a trout, domestic (landlocked) salmon, or charr or (b) fish in a designated “catch & release” area or in a “fly fishing only” area.
8. Domestic (landlocked) Atlantic Salmon may be taken from any freshwaters of the state except from the Pawcatuck River downstream of the Potter Hill Dam. The daily creel and possession limit for domestic (landlocked) Atlantic Salmon is two (2) fish (as part of the daily trout limit). The minimum size limit for domestic (landlocked) Atlantic Salmon is fifteen (15) inches.
9. The creel and possession limit for trout, domestic (landlocked) Atlantic Salmon, or charr taken in the Wood River between Route 165 and south to the Barberville Dam at Arcadia Rd. from 15 May 2011 through 28 February 2012 is two (2) fish (taken either singularly or in the aggregate).
10. With the exception of designated “catch & release” areas, all legally caught trout, salmon, or charr taken from the fresh waters of Rhode Island shall be immediately released alive into the waters from which they were taken or shall be killed at once and become part of the daily creel limit.
11. Non-trout lakes (Killingly and Hazard) that share the boundary with Connecticut - Six(6) tip-ups may be used while ice fishing. RI size and catch limits apply.
12. Striped bass, although a regulated marine species, are often caught in some freshwater rivers of the state recreationally. In these instances, please note that marine regulations will apply.

### **FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORY**

The FDA has issued warnings about mercury levels in swordfish since 1986. Problems of mercury in freshwater fish are similar. The Rhode Island Department of Health wants all anglers to be familiar with the following information.

#### **Fish is Good - Mercury is Bad**

Mercury can exist in many forms; powders or liquids. It can enter ponds, lakes, and rivers through pollution and get into the fish that live there. Mercury is commonly found at elevated levels in freshwater fish and in a few types of saltwater fish. The RI Department of Health advises pregnant women to avoid eating freshwater fish caught in Rhode Island waters (except stocked trout). Mercury can cross the placenta and impair the neurological development of human fetuses. Mercury exposure can affect how a baby learns, moves and behaves. High levels of mercury in the body can cause harm to an adult's kidneys and brain.

#### **Advice for those who fish:**

Check the stocking list on pages 14-16 . Choose stocked trout to eat. Vary where you fish, and the types of fish that you eat. Eat smaller fish (in accordance with RIDEM size limits). Avoid fish with the most mercury: bass, pike, and pickerel. Limit black crappie and eel from all ponds to one meal per month. **Do not fish in private ponds without permission. Do not eat fish from private ponds, with no public access and those that are not stocked by the state. Stocked trout from private vendors stocked into private ponds may be eaten.**

#### **With the exception of trout: do not eat any fish from:**

Yawgoog Pond, Windcheck Pond, Meadowbrook Pond, Quidnick Reservoir, and the lower Woonasquatucket River.

#### **Limit fish, except for stocked trout, from:**

Tucker, Yawgoog and Watchaug Ponds to one meal per month. Preliminary data from a Pan Fish Study completed in 1998 indicates relatively high levels of mercury in fish from Barber Pond, Bowdish Reservoir, Curran Reservoir, Echo Lake, Indian Lake and Schoolhouse Pond.

**Preliminary assessments of fish from:** Mashapaug Pond indicate high levels of several contaminants, warranting further study. For the Woonasquatucket River, Mashapaug Pond and other urban rivers and ponds, fishing can still be enjoyed by those who catch and release.

#### **For more information on mercury in fish:**

[www.healthri.gov/healthyhousing/mercury/fish.php](http://www.healthri.gov/healthyhousing/mercury/fish.php)

Call the Health Hotline at 1-800-942-7434

For Fish License Information please contact RIDEM at 401-222-3576



### **Prohibited Activities:**

1. Fishing in any freshwater stream or pond within this state without a valid fishing license (except as noted on page 5).
2. Fishing in any stream, designated trout stream or designated trout pond of the state, unless otherwise regulated, between 1 March 2011 and 6 AM 9 April 2011.
3. Possessing trout, salmon, or charr during the seasonal closure.
4. Using corn for bait in any trout waters.
5. Chumming in any trout waters.
6. Snagging fish in fresh waters.
7. Using any substance injurious to fish life in any stream or freshwater pond within the state except by permit issued by the DEM.
8. Detonating any explosive within any stream or freshwater pond within the state.
9. Selling trout, largemouth or smallmouth bass, pickerel, northern pike, Atlantic salmon, American shad, or yellow perch taken from any freshwater stream, river, or pond within the state.
10. Stocking any freshwater stream or pond, public or private, within the state with any species of fish without having first obtained a permit from the DEM. For more information, call (401) 789-0281.
11. Releasing any live bait into the freshwaters of the state.
12. The use as bait of any variety of gold fish *Carassius auratus* in the freshwaters of the state or the importation, sale, or possession of any variety of gold fish *Carassius auratus* for use as bait in the fresh waters of the state.
13. Selling any live freshwater minnows for bait or possessing more than one hundred (100) live freshwater minnows without first having procured the appropriate license from the DEM.
14. Tagging, branding, marking, or otherwise willfully mutilating any fish which is to be released alive into any freshwaters of the state except by special permit issued by the Division.

## **Fishing Activities Requiring a Permit**

1.16 All organized fishing activities, i.e. tournaments, must be permitted through RIDEM-Fish & Wildlife on all fresh waters of the state, regardless of access. A minimum of six (6) persons is considered an organized fishing activity requiring a permit. The Department reserves the right to limit the numbers of tournaments per location. The Department reserves the right to deny a permit application for a particular date and location for reasons of overuse or conflict with other activities. If access is municipal or a private ramp, an additional permit may be required from the municipality or private entity and municipal regulations will supercede those of the state for municipal or private ramp access permitting. It shall be the responsibility of the fishing organization to obtain said additional permit.

No more than one (1) permitted organized fishing activity may held on a body of freshwater during the same time period.

This does not supercede any special boat ramp or state management area state regulations, except as described below:  
It will be the sole responsibility of each permitted organized fishing group to have the registrations of all participants available during the activity for enforcement purposes.

## **Freshwater Fishing Area Restrictions**

1. The following waters are restricted to the use of artificial flies, a conventional fly rod, and a single action reel: Deep Pond (Arcadia), Exeter; A. L. Mowry Pond, Smithfield; and Upper Rochambeau Pond, Lincoln.
2. The following waters are restricted to fishing by persons fourteen (14) years of age and younger: Lloyd Kenney Pond, Hopkinton; Frosty Hollow Pond, Exeter; Geneva Brook and Pond, N. Providence; Lapham Pond, Burrillville; Seidel's Pond, Cranston; Silvy's Pond, Cumberland; Cass Pond, Woonsocket and Slater Park Pond, Pawtucket.

### **PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:**

**Cass Pond and Slater Park Pond are restricted only for the first two days of the season, the 9th & 10th of April 2011, FOR CHILDREN ONLY.**

## **Designated Trout Waters**

All designated trout waters are stocked prior to the opening day of trout season. Numbers in parentheses following area names refer to the following:

- (1) Fly fishing only.
- (2) State-owned or controlled public access.
- (3) Minors fourteen (14) years of age and younger, only.

### **Name and Location**

Abbots Run Brook, Cumberland  
Adamsville Brook & Pond, Tiverton & Little Compton  
Aldrich Brook & Butterfly Pond, Lincoln  
Alton Pond (2), Richmond & Hopkinton  
Ashaway River, Hopkinton  
Ashville Pond (2), Hopkinton  
Barber Pond, South Kingstown  
Beach Pond (2), Exeter  
Beaver River (2), Richmond  
Big River (2), West Greenwich  
Blackstone River, Cumberland & Lincoln  
Branch River, Burrillville  
Brandy Brook, Glocester  
Breakheart Brook (2), Exeter  
Breakheart Pond (2), Exeter & West Greenwich  
Brickyard Pond, Barrington  
Browning Mill Pond, Exeter  
Brushy Brook, Hopkinton  
Bucks Horn Brook, Coventry  
Carbuncle Pond (2), Coventry  
Carolina Trout Pond (2), Richmond  
Cass Pond (3) (see page 10), Woonsocket  
Chepachet River, Glocester & Burrillville  
Chickasheen Brook (2), South Kingstown  
Clear River, Burrillville  
Deep Pond (Arcadia) (1)(2), Exeter  
Dexter Pond, Scituate  
Dolly Cole Brook, Foster  
Dunderry Brook (including Wigwam Pond), Little Compton

**Designated Trout Waters (cont.)**

Eight Rod Farm Pond, Tiverton  
Falls River (2), Exeter & West Greenwich  
Flat River (2), Exeter  
Foster Green Acres Pond, Foster  
Frenchtown Park Pond, East Greenwich  
Frosty Hollow Pond(2)(3), Exeter  
Geneva Brook & Pond (3), North Providence  
Harris River, Woonsocket  
Hopkins Mill Pond (2), Foster  
Hunt River, E. Greenwich, N. Kingstown  
J.L. Curran Reservoir (2), Cranston  
Lapham Pond (3), Burrillville  
Lloyd Kenney Pond (3), Hopkinton  
Log House Brook, Hopkinton  
Meadow Brook (2), Richmond  
Meadow Brook Pond (2), Richmond  
Melville Ponds (2), Portsmouth  
Memorial Park Pond, Lincoln  
Meshanicut Brook, Cranston  
Moosup River (2), Coventry  
Mowry, A.L. Pond (1)(2), Smithfield  
Olney Pond (2), Lincoln  
Parris Brook (2), Exeter  
Pawcatuck River (2), Hopkinton, Richmond, Charlestown, Westerly  
Pawtuxet River(north branch) (2), Scituate  
Pawtuxet River(south branch), Coventry  
Peck Pond (2), Burrillville  
Peeptoad Brook, Glocester  
Ponaganset River (2), Foster  
Pondarosa Pond, Little Compton  
Roaring Brook & Ponds (2), Exeter  
Round Top Brook (2), Burrillville  
Round Top Ponds (2), Burrillville  
Saint Mary's Pond, Portsmouth  
Saugatucket River, South Kingstown  
Seidel's Pond (3), Cranston  
Shippee Saw Mill Pond (2), Foster  
Silver Spring Lake (2), North Kingstown  
Silvy's Brook (2), Cumberland  
Silvy's Pond (2)(3), Cumberland

### **Designated Trout Waters (cont.)**

Simmons Mill Pond (2), Little Compton  
Slater Park Pond(3) (see page 9), Pawtucket  
Spring Grove Pond, Glocester  
Stafford Pond (2), Tiverton  
Sylvester's Pond, Woonsocket  
Tarkiln Pond, Burrillville & North Smithfield  
Tiogue Lake, Coventry  
Tiverton Trout Pond (2), Tiverton  
Tucker Pond (2), South Kingstown  
Upper Rochambeau Pond (1) Lincoln  
Wallum Lake, Burrillville  
Watchaug Pond, Charlestown  
Wilcox Park Pond (3), Westerly  
Willett Pond, East Providence  
Winsor Brook, Foster  
Wood River (2), Exeter, Hopkinton & Richmond  
Woonasquatucket River, Smithfield  
Wyoming Pond, Hopkinton & Richmond

### **Anadromous Fish Regulations**

#### **RIVER HERRING: PLEASE NOTE NEW REGULATIONS**

1. No person shall land, catch, take or attempt to catch or take any alewives, *Alosa pseudoharengus* or blueback herring, *Alosa aestivalis*, from any freshwater or marine waters of the state of Rhode Island. Possession of any alewife or blueback herring at any time is prohibited and shall be evidence that said herring was taken in violation of this regulation.
2. No person shall erect any artificial obstruction to fish passage in any stream or in any way alter the natural stream bottom to hinder the passage of fish.

#### **Shad:**

No person shall take any American shad (*Alosa sapidissima*) from the fresh waters of the state or possess any American shad taken from the freshwaters of the state.

#### **Salmon:**

No person shall take any Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) from the Pawcatuck River downstream of the Potter Hill Dam.

## **Anadromous Fish Regulations (cont.)**

### **Smelt:**

No person shall take any smelt (*Osmerus mordax*) by any means from any stream or river system in the state with the exception of the Pawcatuck River in Westerly.

### **Fish Ladders:**

1. Trespass within or any obstruction of the entrance or exit of any fish ladder in the state is prohibited.
2. For the purpose of regulating anadromous fishes, all fish ladders owned and operated by the state are set aside as fish cultivation facilities pursuant to Chapters 20-12-1 and 20-12-5 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island.
3. No person shall catch or attempt to catch any fish within one-half mile (1/2 mile) from the outlet of any fish ladder unless otherwise permitted. The areas below each fish ladder where fishing will be permitted shall be designated with an official boundary marker or informational sign.

## **Saltwater/Freshwater Boundaries**

The saltwater/freshwater boundaries of the state's rivers and streams as described below delineate the boundaries where freshwater regulations apply.

Pawcatuck River, Westerly - the downstream side of the U.S. Route 1 bridge.

Mastuxet Brook, Westerly - the point at which it empties into Mastuxet Cove.

King Tom Pond outlet into Ninigret Pond, Charlestown - the spillway at the south end of King Tom Pond.

Factory Pond outlet, South Kingstown - the seaward opening of the culverts under Teal Road.

Mill Pond outlet into the Card Ponds, South Kingstown - the southern most bridge on Moonstone Beach Road crossing the west neck of the Card Ponds.

Smelt Brook, South Kingstown - the bridge closest to the outlet into Point Judith Pond.

### **Saltwater/Freshwater Boundaries (cont.)**

Saugatucket River, South Kingstown - the downstream side of the Main Street bridge in Wakefield.

Gilbert Stuart Brook, North Kingstown - the point at which it empties into the Pettaquamscutt River.

Wesquage Pond, Narragansett - the outflow of the culvert to Bonnet Shores Beach.

Annaquatucket River, North Kingstown - the point at which it empties into Bissel Cove.

Cocumscussoc Brook, North Kingstown - the bottom of the first riffle upstream from Wickford Cove.

Potowomut River, North Kingstown/East Greenwich- the Forge road spillway.

Maskerchugg River, East Greenwich - the downstream side of the Boston Post Road (U.S.Route 1) bridge.

Gorton Pond outlet, Warwick - to the west of the Amtrack railroad bridge.

Tuscatucket Brook, Warwick - the downstream side of the West Shore Road bridge.

Old Mill Creek, Warwick - entirely tidal.

Warner Brook, Warwick - the downstream side of the Draper Avenue bridge.

Buckeye Brook, Warwick - the point at which the stream empties into Narragansett Bay.

Lockwood Brook, Warwick - the downstream side of the West Shore Road bridge.

Spring Green Pond outlet, Warwick - the downstream side of the Warwick Avenue (R.I. Route 117 A) bridge.

Pawtuxet River, Warwick/Providence - the Narragansett Parkway spillway.

Woonasquatucket River, Providence - the downstream side of the U.S. Route 1N bridge.

Moshassuck River, Providence - the point of confluence with the Woonasquatucket River.

Blackstone/Seekonk River, Pawtucket - the Main Street spillway.

### **Saltwater/Freshwater Boundaries (cont.)**

Ten Mile River, East Providence - the Omega Pond spillway.

Anawonscutt Brook, Barrington - the Piling Chain Company spillway on Bay Spring Avenue.

Mussachuck Creek, Barrington - the downstream side of the Washington Road bridge.

Runnins River, East Providence/Seekonk, MA - the downstream side of the Mink Street ( R.I. 114 A) bridge.

Kickamuit River, Warren - the Warren Reservoir spillway.

Sin and Flesh Brook, Tiverton - the downstream side of the Highland Avenue bridge.

Nonquit Pond, Tiverton - the bridge at Pond Bridge Road.

Pachet Brook, Tiverton - the downstream side of the West Main Road (R.I. Route 77) bridge.

Dunderry Brook, Little Compton - the downstream side of the Swamp Road bridge.

Cold Brook, Little Compton - the point at which it empties into Quick sand Pond.

Maidford River, Middletown - the downstream side of the Paradise Avenue bridge.

Goose Neck Cove, Newport - entirely tidal.

Lily Pond, Newport - the outlet.

Almy Pond, Newport - the outlet.

Prince Pond (Tiffany Pond), Barrington - the point at which the stream enters the Barrington River.



## **Boating Regulation Guidelines**

For more detailed information, see Title 46 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island or contact the Division of Enforcement.

1. DEM Conservation and Boating Safety Officers, harbormasters, and police officers have authority to enforce state laws and regulations on all state tidal and non-tidal waters.
2. It shall be a misdemeanor for any person operating a vessel on Rhode Island waters to refuse to stop or move on the oral command of a DEM Conservation or Boating Safety Officer, a harbor-master, or a police officer.
3. Every motorboat operating on the waters of the state must be numbered in accordance with the laws and regulations of this state, with applicable federal law, or with an approved numbering system of another state. The number must be prominently displayed on each side of the bow of the boat.
4. Required Safety Equipment:
  - a. Personal Flotation Devices (PFD's) - One approved type I,II,III, or V PFD for each person on board. For vessels 16 feet long or longer, one additional, throwable type IV PFD is required.
  - b. Whistle (horn) and Bell - all vessels must carry an efficient sound-producing device (whistle or horn). Vessels 12 meters (36 feet) in length or longer must also carry a bell.
  - c. Fire Extinguishers -all mechanically-propelled vessels except those that are less than 26 feet long and powered by outboard motors, must carry one B-I USCG-approved fire extinguisher. Motorboats 26 feet in length and longer must carry either two (2) B-I USCG-approved fire extinguishers or one B-II extinguisher.
5. All motorboats must carry and display the proper navigation lights for their size class when operating between sunset and sunrise and during daylight periods of reduced visibility.
6. The exhaust of every internal combustion engine used on any motorboat shall be effectively muffled by equipment so constructed and used to muffle the noise of the exhaust in a reasonable manner.

### **Boating Regulation Guidelines (cont.)**

7. No person shall operate any motorboat or vessel or manipulate any water skis, surfboard, or similar device in a reckless manner so as to endanger the life, limb, or property of another.
8. Any person transporting a child under thirteen (13) years of age in a recreational vessel less than 65 ft. in length on the waters of this state, shall require that the child wear a personal flotation device approved by the USCG when underway unless below deck or in a closed cabin.
9. No person shall operate any motorboat or vessel in any harbor or inlet or any pond or other confined body of water in this state in excess of forty-five (45) miles per hour during the hours from sunrise to sunset and twenty-five (25) miles per hour during periods of darkness or other periods of restricted visibility.
10. Any person SCUBA diving, skin diving, or snorkeling in any area where power or motorboats are operated shall place a diver's warning flag on a buoy at a place of his or her submergence. No person shall operate a motorboat within fifty (50) feet of a displayed diver's flag.

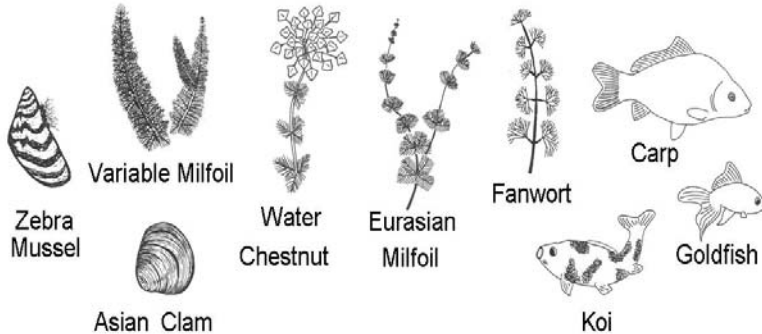
#### **Natural Shorelines are Good for Fishing**

By keeping shorelines natural, you can help protect water quality and improve fish habitat. A shoreline without trees and shrubs can get washed away, making the water muddy and unsuitable for fish. If you live near a lake or a river, plant a buffer strip along the water's edge using trees, shrubs, wildflowers or other native plants. Trees and other vegetation filter pollution and provide shade, shelter, habitat, and food critical for bass, trout, and other fish to thrive and reproduce. Keep your favorite fishing spots well vegetated! For more tips and information, visit <http://water.epa.gov/type/lakes/index.cfm>

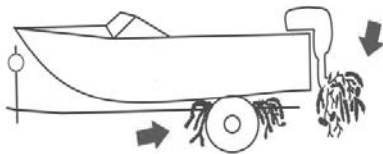


# STOP

## THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES



## BOATERS: INSPECT VESSEL CAREFULLY BEFORE & AFTER USE!



- Remove ALL weeds and plant fragments from boat and trailer
- Drain boat & motor far from water; allow to dry before next use
- Do not release bait or aquarium fish, shellfish or plants



For more information:  
RI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
Division of Fish & Wildlife      Office of Water Resources  
[www.dem.ri.gov](http://www.dem.ri.gov)



## **Management Area Boating Regulations**

1. Definition: Float Tube - any device manufactured and sold for use as a fishing float tube. Float tubes are prohibited on the following ponds: Little Round Top Pond, Burrillville; A.L. Mowry Pond, Smithfield; Frosty Hollow Pond, Exeter; and Carolina Trout Pond, Richmond.
2. Boats are prohibited on the following ponds: Carolina Trout Pond, Richmond; Deep Pond (Arcadia), Frosty Hollow Pond, Exeter; Peck Pond, Round Top Pond, Little Round Top Pond, Burrillville; A.L. Mowry Pond, Smithfield, and Lower Roaring Brook Pond, Exeter, Gristmill Pond, Gloucester (no public access, no longer stocked).
3. The launching, hauling, or operation of boats with motors of any kind is prohibited from state-owned and/or operated ramps on the following ponds: Asa Pond, South Kingstown; Alton Pond, Hopkinton; and Upper Roaring Brook Ponds, Exeter.
4. The launching, hauling, and operation of boats with motors of any kind, except electric trolling motors, is prohibited from state-owned and/or operated ramps on the following bodies of water: Spring Lake, Burrillville; Union Pond, Burrillville; Clarkville Pond, Gloucester; Lake Washington, Gloucester; Shippee Saw Mill Pond, Foster; Pawtuxet River (Hope), Scituate; Carbuncle Pond, Coventry; Silver Spring Lake, North Kingstown; Barber Pond, South Kingstown; Blue Pond, Hopkinton; Simmons Mill Pond, Little Compton, and Browning Mill Pond, Exeter & Richmond.
5. The use of motors in excess of 10 horsepower on boats launched, hauled, or operated from state-owned and/or operated ramps is prohibited on the following bodies of water: Wilson Reservoir, Burrillville; Keech Pond, Gloucester; Smith and Sayles Reservoir (Sand Dam), Gloucester; Bowdish Reservoir, Gloucester; Woonasquatucket Reservoir (Stump Pond), Smithfield; Indian Lake, South Kingstown; Tucker Pond, South Kingstown; Ashville Pond, Hopkinton; Locustville Pond, Hopkinton; and Chapman Pond, Westerly.
6. No person shall launch any motorboat with a motor in excess of ten (10) horsepower from state-owned and/or operated ramps on Pascoag Reservoir and at the state-owned launching ramp on Schoolhouse Road, Gloucester between the Saturday before

### **Management Area Boating Regulations (cont.)**

Memorial Day up until Labor Day of each year, inclusive. With the exception that the use of motors in excess of ten (10) horse power on boats launched, hauled, or operated from state-owned and/or operated ramps on Pascoag Reservoir and at School house Road, Glocester, is permitted for organized fishing activities possessing a valid permit from RIDEM-Fish & Wildlife; *as described in Section 1.16, Freshwater and Anadromous Fishing Regulations, and on page 13 of this 2011 Freshwater Fishing Abstract.*

7. The use of motors in excess of ten (10) horsepower on boats launched, hauled, or operated from the state-owned ramp on Wakefield Pond, Burrillville is prohibited at all times. The use of any motor on a boat launched, hauled, or operated from this state-owned ramp, except for electric trolling motors, is prohibited from 20 June to 20 September of any year, inclusive.
8. The use of motors in excess of ten (10) horsepower on boats launched, hauled, or operated on the waters of Breakheart Pond in Exeter and John L. Curran State Park is prohibited.
9. Boating is prohibited within the impoundment created by the Great Swamp dike, except with official written permission. Official written permission is not required from 15 July through 15 October. All motors are prohibited at all times.
10. No person shall use a motor in excess of ten (10) horsepower from state-owned and/or operated ramps on Stafford Pond, Tiverton with the exception that the use of motors in excess of ten (10) horsepower on boats launched, hauled, or operated from state-owned and/or operated ramps on Stafford Pond, Tiverton, is permitted for organized fishing activities possessing a valid permit from RIDEM-Fish & Wildlife; *as described in Section 1.16, Freshwater and Anadromous Fishing Regulations and on page 13 of this 2011 Freshwater Fishing Abstract.*
11. Powerboats are prohibited on the waters of Olney Pond, Lincoln Woods State Park on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays from June 15 through September 15.

### **Management Area Boating Regulations (cont.)**

12. Powerboats owned by persons other than the State of Rhode Island with motors in excess of ten (10) horsepower are prohibited upon Olney Pond in Lincoln Woods State Park except with official written permission from the Lincoln Woods State Park Manager.
13. Only vehicles launching or landing a boat will be permitted to park in designated boat trailer parking areas.
14. The mooring of boats, the parking of vehicles, or engaging in any activity on land or in water so as to obstruct the use of a boat launching ramp by others, is prohibited.
15. Boats shall be launched only at designated areas.
16. Boats shall be tied up at state boat ramps for no longer than 30 minutes.
17. The boat ramp located within the George Washington Management Area Campground/Bowditch Reservoir will have no access from 10 PM to 7:30 AM from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Persons using the lake or ramp prior to 10 PM will be able to exit the area, but are not allowed to reenter through the gate.

### **Fluorescent Orange Requirement**

**All users** of State Management Areas are required to wear 200 square inches of solid daylight fluorescent orange, worn above the waist and visible in all directions from the third Saturday in October to the last day of February and the last Thursday in April to the last day of May annually, and during established mourning dove season and wild turkey season. 500 square inches is required by all users of management areas and undeveloped state parks during all portions of shotgun deer seasons. Fluorescent camouflage does not meet these requirements. The hunter orange must be worn above the waist and be visible in all directions. Examples are a hat that covers 200 square inches or a combination of a hat and vest covering 500 square inches.

## **Hypothermia**

Hypothermia is a condition in which the body loses heat faster than it can produce it. This causes a dangerous reduction of the body's inner temperature. Hypothermia results from exposure to wind and wetness. A victim of hypothermia may become blue-gray in color. Violent shivering develops which may give way to muscle spasms and even loss of the use of arms and legs. Confusion and drunken-like behavior also indicate that a person may be hypothermic.

To protect yourself from hypothermia, avoid the conditions that cause it. Dress warmly and stay dry. Know the effects which wind has on cold weather. It may be 40 F (7 C) outside with the sun shining, but a 10 mph wind lowers the wind-chill temperature to 28 F (-2 C). Refer to the Hypothermia Table located on the next page to see the general effects cold water temperatures have on the body.

When a person falls into cold water, there are ways to increase the chances of survival. Don't discard clothing; it helps trap the body's heat. Minimize movement; thrashing around in cold water only leads to exhaustion, and swirling water takes heat from the body more rapidly than still water. Wear a personal flotation device (PFD) which will help for two reasons: it lessens the need to move around in the water and it helps to insulate against heat loss. When wearing a PFD, a person should draw their knees into a position known as HELP (Heat Escape Lessening Posture). If there are several people in the water, huddling together with arms around each other's shoulders is the best survival technique.

Treatment for hypothermia involves getting heat back into the body and raising the inner temperature. Skin-to-skin contact and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation (even when the victim is conscious) are excellent ways to transfer heat. Do not give alcohol or massage a person vigorously to treat hypothermia; a hot bath is fine for mild cases but never if the victim is unconscious. For further information, contact your local Red Cross Chapter.

### **Hypothermia Table**

If the water Temperature (F) is...	Exhaustion or unconsciousness occurs within...	Expected survival time is...
less than 32.5	less than 15 minutes	less than 45 minutes
32.5-40.0	15-40 minutes	30-90 minutes
40-50	30-60 minutes	1-3 hours
50-60	1-2 hours	1-6 hours
60-70	2-7 hours	2-40 hours
70-80	3-12 hours	3-indefinitely
over 80	indefinitely	indefinitely

### **Aquatic Resource Education Program (ARE)**

The Division sponsors an outreach and educational program funded by USFWS Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration.

Recreational fishing programs for children and adults are available year round, statewide, and at the ARE Training Ponds; Carolina Trout Hatchery and Arcadia Warmwater Hatchery. Fly fishing and fly tying workshops are offered annually. The ARE program has a fishing rod loan program available to school and youth groups for training purposes.

The program also provides teacher workshops in Project Wild and Wild Aquatic, Project WET - Water Education for Teachers, WOW, the Wonders of Wetlands curricula, as well as a variety of freshwater and marine aquatic programs. Educational materials such as fish posters, and coloring books are available free of charge.

All ARE programs are equipped for people with special needs. For more information, contact the ARE Program, RIDEM-Fish & Wildlife, Arcadia Warmwater Hatchery, 401-539-7333 or [kimberly.sullivan@dem.ri.gov](mailto:kimberly.sullivan@dem.ri.gov).



## **First Fish Award Program**

First Fish Awards are available for youngsters catching their first fish. To receive an award, an angler must catch a qualifying fish by rod and reel, tie-up or handline by legal means in Rhode Island waters. First Fish Awards can be processed with information on the child's catch without official weigh station verification. If keeping a fish, legal sizes must be adhered to. Applications can be downloaded using the following link: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/fwttopics.htm>. First Fish Awards are sent out as soon as possible upon receipt. Please send completed applications to RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife, Arcadia Warmwater Hatchery, 1 Summit Road, Hope valley, RI 02832. For questions pertaining to the First Fish Award Program, email [kimberly.sullivan@dem.ri.gov](mailto:kimberly.sullivan@dem.ri.gov) or call 401-539-7333.

## **Rhode Island Game Fish Award Program**

Annually, RIDEM-Division of Fish & Wildlife recognizes anglers who have caught freshwater and saltwater game fish of notable size. Game Fish Awards are presented to anglers for each species of game fish caught that meet the minimum size requirements listed below. Only one award will be presented to an angler for each species per year. State Record Game Fish Awards are presented to the angler whose game fish catch is the largest to date of a species, as determined by Division records. To receive an award, an angler must catch a qualifying fish by rod and reel, tie-up or handline by legal means in Rhode Island waters. To apply for a Game Fish Award or State Record Game Fish Award, an angler must bring his or her legally-caught fish to an official weigh-in station, such as a bait and tackle shop, sporting goods store or grocery fish department. The fish must be identified, measured, and weighed on a digital scale. The station operator will fill out a Game Fish Award Application and sign it. If keeping a fish, legal sizes must be adhered to in all cases. Game Fish Awards and State Record Game Fish Awards are mailed out in the the spring of the following year the fish are caught. Send completed applications to: RIDEM- Fish & Wildlife, 277 Great Neck Rd, West Kingston, RI 02892, for verification and processing. Applications can be obtained on the DEM website. For questions on the Game Fish Award Program, write to the address above or call (401) 789-0281.

**Gamefish Award Qualifying Weights/Lengths**  
**(Except First Fish Awards)**

**Qualifying Freshwater Weights or Lengths**

Smallmouth Bass	4 lbs	White Catfish	4 lbs
Largemouth Bass	6 lbs	Chain Pickerel	4 lbs
Bluegill	9 in	Northern Pike	10 lbs
Pumpkinseed	8 in	Brook Trout	2 lbs
Black Crappie	12 in	Brown Trout	3 lbs
Yellow Perch	12 in	Rainbow Trout	3 lbs
White Perch	15 in	Brown Bullhead	13 in

**Qualifying Saltwater Weights**

Striped Bass	50 lbs	Pollack	15 lbs
Sea Bass	3 lbs	Scup	2-1/2 lbs
Bluefish	18 lbs	Hickory Shad	5 lbs
Bonito	10 lbs	Blue Shark	80 lbs
Cod	20 lbs	Mako Shark	150 lbs
Winter Flounder	2 lbs	Swordfish	200 lbs
Summer Flounder	8 lbs	Squeteague	8 lbs
King Mackerel	1 lb	Tautog	10 lbs
Mackerel	3 lbs	Bluefin Tuna	450 lbs
Yellowfin Tuna	125 lbs	White Marlin	70 lbs

**RHODE ISLAND SPORTFISHING RECORDS 2010**  
**FRESHWATER**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Angler</b>
<b>Smallmouth Bass</b>	5lbs 15oz	22.5"	9/77	Wash Pond	B. Ferris Wakefield, RI
<b>Largemouth Bass</b>	10lbs 6oz	24.5"	5/91	Carbuncle Pond	N. Finamore Johnston, RI
<b>Bluegill</b>	2lb 1oz	12"	8/87	----	C. Rizzo Pascoag, RI
<b>Pumpkinseed</b>	12.5oz	10"	2001	Indian Lake	J. Hall Wakefield, RI
<b>Black Crappie</b>	3lbs	15"	7/76	Watchaug Pond	R. Sevegny Pawtucket, RI
<b>Yellow Perch</b>	2lbs 4oz	13.5"	2/87	Pascoag Reservoir	D. LaRochelle Glendale, RI
<b>White Perch</b>	2lbs .25oz	15.5"	12/09	Narrow River	P. Warner Narragansett, RI
<b>Carp</b>	32lbs 8oz	----	2001	Tiogue Lake	S Wasilewski Hope Valley, RI
<b>Brown Bullhead</b>	9.44lbs	18.5"	1998	---	H. Laramie Cumberland, RI
<b>White Catfish</b>	16lbs 12oz	33"	9/94	Tiogue Lake	L. Angell Coventry, RI
<b>Chain Pickerel</b>	6lbs 14oz	27.75"	8/05	Beach Pond	T. Egan Coventry, RI
<b>Northern Pike</b>	35 lbs	47.5"	10/87	Hundred Acre Pond	D. LaRose Coventry, RI
<b>Brook Trout</b>	3lbs 12oz	21"	10/84	Wyoming Pond	R. Boucher, Jr. Warwick, RI
<b>Brown Trout</b>	7lbs 9oz	26"	4/00	Wallum Lake	R. Groleau Blackstone, MA
<b>Rainbow Trout</b>	11lbs	----	4/91	Pawcatuck River	M. Wincek Wakefield, RI
<b>Atlantic Salmon Domestic, stocked (landlocked)</b>	21lbs 9oz	41"	1/04	Barber Pond	R. Maldonis Arlington, MA

## RI Sportfishing Records 2010 - Saltwater

Species	Weight	Length	Date	Location	Angler
Sea Bass	8lbs 7.25oz	26"	10/81	Block Island	K. McDuffie Pascoag, RI
Striped Bass	76lbs 14oz	54.75"	7/08	Block Island	P. Vican E. Greenwich, RI
Bluefish	26lbs	39"	8/81	--	D. Deziel Woonsocket, RI
Bonito	13lbs	--	10/95	Westerly	R. Gliottone Exeter, RI
Cod	71lbs	--	6/65	--	M. Deciantis Warwick, RI
Summer Flounder	17lbs 8oz	--	1962	Narrow River	G. Farmer Warwick, RI
Winter Flounder	6lbs 7oz	23"	8/90	Galilee	A. Pearson Cranston, RI
King Mackerel	12lbs 3oz	40"	8/00	Point Judith	A. Camilleri Chester, CT
Atlantic Mackerel	OPEN				
Pollack	28lbs 8oz	--	5/95	--	A. Jacobs Lincoln, RI
Scup	5lbs	20.25"	10/90	--	J. Yurwitz Block Island, RI
American Shad (Closed)	6lbs 8oz	25"	4/85	Runnins River	W. Socha Warren, RI
Hickory Shad	2lbs 11oz	20"	11/89	Narrow River	M. Pickering Lincoln, RI
Blue Shark	431lbs 2oz	12'6"	11/06	Cox Ledge	G. Gross Fairfield, NJ
Mako Shark	718lbs	10'6"	6/93	S. Block Island	W. Alessi Boston, MA
Swordfish	314lbs	--	6/64	--	Goodwin Warwick, RI
Squeteague	16lbs 8.72oz	36"	5/07	Greenwich Bay	R. Moeller N. Kingstown, RI
Tautog	21lbs 4oz	--	11/54	Jamestown	C.W. Sunquist
Bluefin Tuna	1142lbs	--	9/71	Block Island	J. Dempsey
Yellowfin Tuna	265lbs	6'	10/97	The Dip	R Hughes Arlington, MA
White Marlin	125lbs	8' 0.5"	8/87	S. Block Island	J. Luty, Sr. Preston, CT

### **Tips for Releasing Live Fish**

If fish are to be taken as part of the daily creel limit, they should be killed immediately and kept cool until they can be prepared for the table. However, if an angler wishes to release a live fish, either because it is undersized or because the angler wishes to practice catch and release fishing, the following procedures are recommended:

1. Land the fish as quickly as possible to minimize stress to the fish. Playing a fish to the point of exhaustion will lessen its chance for survival.
2. Wet your hands before handling the fish; dry hands will remove the fish's protective slime layer and leave the fish open to bacterial and fungal infections.
3. Handle the fish carefully. Do not use excessive force when grasping the fish. Do not put fingers into the gill cavities or eye sockets. A wet glove or wet rag can be a useful aid in grasping the fish because it reduces the amount of pressure needed to hold the fish securely.
4. Gently remove the hook to minimize damage. A pair of long-nose pliers will make the job easier.
5. If you are intentionally practicing catch and release fishing, use artificial lures with single, barbless hooks, or circle hooks to minimize damage to the fish.
6. Do not attempt to remove a hook that is deeply imbedded in the gullet. The fish will have a better chance of survival if the hook is left in place and the line is cut off as close to the hook as possible. Usually, more damage is caused trying to remove the hook than just leaving it in place where it will eventually disintegrate.
7. Return the fish to the water as quickly as possible. Do not simply throw it back into the water; instead lower it back into the water in an upright position and move it back and forth in the water to force water across its gills. Once the fish revives, allow it to swim away. For more information on catch and release fishing, please contact us.

## **Angler Ethics**

The Ethical Angler:

1. Keeps only the fish he needs.
2. Doesn't pollute, properly disposes of trash or packs it back.
3. Hones angling and boating skills.
4. Observes angling and boating safety regulations.
5. Respects other anglers' rights.
6. Respects property owners' rights.
7. Passes on knowledge and angling skills to friends and family.
8. Supports local conservation efforts.
9. Doesn't release live bait, non-native plants, fish or invertebrates, into RI waters - its against the law.
10. Does not leave offal from cleaning fish at fishing sites, on land or in the water; instead, packs it back or buries it out of sight.
11. Promotes the sport of angling.
12. Does not transport any invasive plant, fish, or invertebrate from one water body to another.

### **Fishing Tips:**

Go where the fish are.

Use the right bait.

Be patient!

“ It is the policy of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management to offer its services and accommodations to all orderly persons, and, as required, to all properly licensed persons, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, or disability.”

If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, facility, or if you desire further information, please write to the  
Office for Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior.  
Office of the Secretary, Washington, D.C. 20240

**RIDEM - Division of Fish & Wildlife**  
**Great Swamp Field Headquarters**  
**277 Great Neck Rd.**  
**West Kingston, RI 02892**

**To:**



*Our mission is to ensure that the Freshwater, Marine, and Wildlife  
resources of the State of Rhode Island will be conserved and  
managed for equitable and sustainable use.*